

West Hartford Clean Energy Task Force

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Catherine, Bernie, Joe, Jeff, Judy

Date: June 12, 2013
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Town Hall – Rm 422

- WH Celebrate – recap
 - We had 3 HES, 2 solar, and 14 CE sign-ups
 - Feedback was that CE rep was new, weak. Catherine to speak with CE.
 - Next year split with CE/3Degrees?
 - It was also noted that our “displays” were weak. Jeff commented that we should have a better display board, that explains or lists some of the programs we are promoting to residents – so that we can talk more logically to them
 - Other ideas for drawing “attention” to booth included:
 - Electric car
 - Student artwork/posters/media presentation – could hold a student contest for poster that would be displayed in the booth.
- Energy Legislation update – Roger
 - Roger sent email
- Residential outreach – TV spots done
 - Can we find out how many WH residences have had HES? Catherine to check with Clean Energy Committees program for updated #s.
 - Real interest in marketing residential solar....discussion turned to whether we should consider entering next round of SOLARIZE CT – RFP due July 12.
- Business outreach
 - Joe to set up tour with Earthlight (Doug Lombardi) in Town Center. Potential case study. July 10, 5:30 tentative.
 - Town and Chamber now working together on marketing C-PACE. Can we continue to pitch SBEA alongside C-PACE?
- Town updates

- Charter Oak
 - Architects narrowed to 3 firms – Perkins Eastman, Tai Soo Kim (designed Bristow MS) and JCJ. All good candidates
 - Interviews of Construction Managers to happen next
 - Community input meeting will be held – Task Force to be included.
- Alt. Energy Ordinance (permitting fees)
 - Town Council drafted ordinance to deal with ground-mount solar and other alt energy projects.
 - Internal staff meeting held to review: after some revisions will be circulated (through Catherine) to some “experts” – solar installers, and task force for additional comments.
- Electricity Procurement – pricing back
 - Town signed 24-month contract with Aequitas Energy for electricity, based in New Haven (financially backed by BP) for fixed-price 7.18 cents/kWh.
 - Flexible contract – opt out at any time, no penalties; no volume requirements (good for solar). Good deal for Town.
 - Judy pleased, even though did not happen exactly as planned; drew attention to issue
- CT Green Leaf Schools
 - All schools signed on with principal commitment letter to state program which focuses on: 1) integrating envt education, health/well-being of students, reducing envt impact/cost.
 - Article in Courant
 - Next step is to conduct baseline assessments which will include some central information (green cleaning, energy use) and some school information (green team, lessons)
- C-Pace marketing proposal – Town/Chamber
 - Town and Chamber received \$2,250 for joint marketing proposal. Catherine shared proposal which includes breakfast events, mailers, etc.
- Performance Contracting
 - Town revising scope of project that Ameresco proposed based on initial spreadsheet. After scope narrowed, next step is the IGA – investment Grade Audit, which will take another 6 months at least.
- Other

- Hotel RFP – Brief update from Rob Rowison that design was just beginning and that they are aware of LEED gold criteria. Also heard there was some discussion going on about # of parking spaces available to Hotel in Town garages.
- Water Bottles – Catherine showed sample bottle donated by CEFIA. She has 1,000 but cannot be used for “children under 12.” Judy would like to give to Town Council and BOE with some information. Bob Palmer said he would install a water bottle filler station outside Council Chambers.
- Other ideas for task force to work on:
 - Solar outreach
 - Student contest – vide
 - Mayor’s show
 - Revamp/reorganize website – Can it be moved in hierarchy so not as “buried”. People are going to think about where it should logically be located
 - Business recognition
 - Water bottles